Claim Amendments:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (withdrawn) A method for enabling performance of an operation on a cardiac valve of a heart while the heart is beating, the method comprising placing a valved filter device in a flow path of a blood vessel downstream from the cardiac valve, the device being operative to effect greater antegrade flow than retrograde flow through said the vessel, and being operative to restrict the passage of emboli while allowing blood to flow through the vessel.

2. (withdrawn) A method for performing an operation on a cardiac valve of a heart while the heart is beating, the method comprising the steps of:

a) positioning a valved filter device in a flow path of a blood vessel downstream from the cardiac valve, the device being operative to effect greater antegrade flow than retrograde flow through the vessel;

b) resecting at least a portion of the cardiac valve; and

c) affixing at least one prosthetic valve at or downstream from the resected cardiac valve.

3. (withdrawn) A method for enabling performance of an operation on a cardiac valve of a heart while the heart is beating, the method comprising placing a valved filter device in a flow path of a blood vessel of the cardiac valve, the device being operative to effect greater antegrade flow than retrograde flow through the vessel, and being operative to restrict the passage of emboli while allowing blood to flow through the vessel.

4. (withdrawn) A method for performing an operation on a cardiac valve of a heart while the heart is beating, the method comprising the steps of:

a) positioning a valved filter device in a flow path of a blood vessel downstream from the cardiac valve, the device being operative to effect greater antegrade flow than retrograde flow through the vessel;

b) resecting or disrupting at least a portion of the cardiac valve; and

c) affixing at least one prosthetic valve at, upstream or downstream from the resected cardiac valve.

5. (cancel)

6. (cancel)

7. (cancel)

8. (currently amended) A valved filter device for use in repair and replacement of cardiac valves, the device comprising:

an elongated tube of filter material, said tube being closed at a distal end thereof and open at a proximal end thereof; ~~and~~

a membrane; and

a valve seating retaining ring fixed on the proximal end of said tube;

wherein the membrane is tethered to ~~the open end of said tube~~ the valve seating retaining ring at multiple spaced apart fixation points around the circumference of ring, the membrane being expandable under diastolic pressure to form a generally parabolic cone substantially blocking flow of blood therethrough, and compressible under systolic pressure to form a substantially non-flow blocking configuration to permit flow of blood therethrough.

9. (original) The valved filter device in accordance with claim 8 and further comprising a catheter extending through a central portion of said tube, an apex portion of the membrane being tethered to said catheter.

10. (cancel)

11. (original) The valved filter device in accordance with claim 9 and further comprising skeletal members supporting said tube, said skeletal members including radial struts operative to retain said catheter in the tube central portion and collapsible so as to render the device circumferentially compressible.

12. (new) The valved filter device in accordance with claim 8, wherein the valve seating retaining ring comprises an inner surface, and the membrane is tethered to the inner surface of the valve seating retaining ring.

13. (new) The valved filter device in accordance with claim 8, wherein expansion and compression of the membrane expands and compresses, respectively, the ring and proximal end of the tube that is attached to the ring.